Kent County Report

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Mary Hollinrake to Retire

Kent County Clerk Finishing Fourth Term in December

Mary Hollinrake is serving her 16th and final year as Kent County Clerk and Register of Deeds. She decided earlier this year that she would not seek a fifth term. Mary's retirement caps a career in the County Clerk/Register's

Department that began in January 1995.

The Kent County Clerk's Office manages County elections, vital records, and processes and maintains all Circuit Court files. In Kent County, the Clerk is also the Register of Deeds and the Clerk of the Board of Commissioners.

Hollinrake is proud of the technological advances that have made service faster and easier for residents while creating staffing efficiencies. "Citizens continue to use our electronic services in an increasing manner and that has helped keep our staffing down," she told the Board of Commissioners earlier this year. "Our four offices get about 1,500 walk-in visitors a week and we have a

comparable number of phone calls in the combined offices."

"Mary has set the standard for how to run a County Clerk's Office in the State of Michigan," said Jim Saalfeld, Chair of the Kent County Board of Commissioners. "She understands how to make her office run efficiently and effectively, she has brought the office forward in the area of technology, and she maintains excellent customer service. Along with her energy and enthusiasm as a public servant, she leaves big shoes to fill for the next Kent County Clerk."

Hollinrake was named *Clerk of the Year* by the Michigan Association of County Clerks in 2009 and named "One of West Michigan's Most Influential Women" by the Grand Rapids Business Journal on two occasions. Mary's retirement plans include devoting time and energy to environmental causes.



Serve Your Community Today

The Board of Commissioners is looking for Kent County residents interested in serving the community through appointment to various commissions, committees and boards. You may apply by completing an online application form on the County's website:

www.accessKent.com/ boardappointments

You must apply by September 30, 2016.

Call 616.632.7580 if you have questions.

Preparing for Disaster: Hazard Mitigation Plan Under Review, Revision

August 20, parts of Kent County were hit by a summer storm that included heavy rain and tornadoes. Fortunately, no one was injured and damage was mostly due to fallen trees and downed power lines. We are not immune to severe weather. West Michigan needs to be prepared to respond to a wide variety of natural disasters and hazards. The Greater Grand Rapids Hazard Mitigation Plan (GGRHMP) is a regional effort across Kent and Ottawa Counties and includes the City of Grand Rapids and various other local jurisdictions within the counties. The GGRHMP was created in 2006, revised in 2011, and



Tornado Damage in Wyoming - August 20, 2016.

now is under review and revision for 2016. The Emergency Management Division is looking for input from the local political jurisdictions, agencies, elected officials, and the general public. Local governments and organizations are asked to participate by reviewing and supplying information about area hazards, concerns and priorities, current prevention measures, and planned mitigation projects. To see the approved 2012 plan, go to accesskent.com/Sheriff/pdfs/GGRHazMitPlan_2012.pdf. You can submit input to the Emergency Management Division by email to Jack.Stewart@kentcountymi.gov by October 1, 2016.

Secchia Family, Board Dedicate Millennium Park Expansion

On July 28 Ambassador Peter Secchia and his family, along with the Kent County Board of Commissioners and employees of Universal Forest Products (UFP) dedicated a 50-acre addition at Millennium Park, called "The Meadows." The \$3.5 million development includes the William F. Grant Pavilion, the Currie Family Amphitheater and the Employees of Universal Products Boardwalk. More than 150 people attended the event.



The Secchia family, lead contributors since Millennium Park was envisioned 17 years ago, financed most of the construction at *The Meadows*. It will provide accessible space and amenities for public use, said Jim Saalfeld, Chair of the Kent County Board of Commissioners.

"Kent County is incredibly fortunate to have the Secchia family as a major benefactor and biggest supporter of Millennium Park, which today stands as one of the largest land reclamation projects in

Michigan - and perhaps in the Midwest," Saalfeld said. "And once again, through the generosity of the Secchia Family, *The Meadows* offers our Park users with endless recreational opportunities and experiences. I am so appreciative for all Peter Secchia and his family have done, and continue to do, for our community."

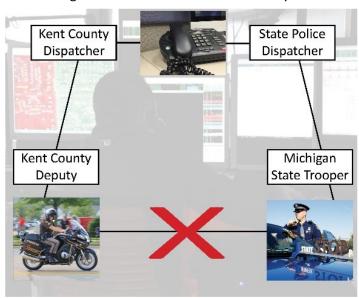
The Grant Pavilion can seat 300 people and features a 4,300-square-foot plaza overlooking one of the Park's spring-fed lakes. The Currie Amphitheater provides an opportunity for the park to host a variety of events, such as small concerts, corporate outings and more.

Voters Asked to Consider Public Safety Dispatch Surcharge Increase

In November, voters will be asked to increase the current 9-1-1 surcharge already paid for phone service in Kent County. An additional \$0.70/month per line for a total of \$1.15/month would address 9-1-1 Dispatch technology improvements and fire dispatch operations. Residents with one phone would pay approximately \$13.80 a year.

Public Safety 911 Dispatch in Kent County currently operates on eight different radio systems, all of which cannot directly communicate with each other. Often during emergency situations, first responders (police, deputies, firefighters and emergency medical technicians) from different agencies can't communicate directly with each

other, even though they are all responding to the same call for help. Some first responders carry multiple devices in order to talk to various responding agencies. This has led to lapses in communication, especially if information is transmitted on a wrong device. In addition, Kent County and City of Grand Rapids dispatchers can't communicate via radio with dispatchers or first responders on the 800 MHz Michigan Public Safety Communications System. This includes Michigan State Police, Ottawa County, Allegan County, Ionia County, and Newaygo County. In incidents involving these agencies, Kent County dispatchers use telephones to communicate with other dispatch agencies, who must then relay the message to

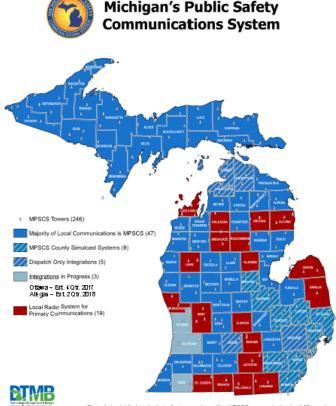


their first responders, which takes more time to complete.

If the surcharge increase is approved, Kent County will purchase communications towers and 800 MHz equipment which will put all dispatchers and First responders in the County on the Michigan Public Safety Communications System. This eliminates the need for multiple radio systems.

Part of the surcharge will cover costs associated with countywide fire dispatch, which is more complex technologically and more labor intensive than in the past. Most of the cities and townships in Kent County adopted resolutions urging the County place a surcharge question on a ballot in 2016.

For more information and answers to frequently asked questions, go to accessKent.com/surcharge.



Back-to-School Checklist

✓ Pencils✓ Paper✓ Shoes☐ ImmuniZations

All Children starting
Kindergarten or 7th grade,
or new students in any other
grade, must show proof of
Vaccination!

Michigan's Vaccines for Children (VFC) program provides Vaccines at no charge to those who qualify (administration fees may apply).

Call today for details:
(616)632-7200
or find more information at
accesskent.com/immunizations



Need an Absentee Ballot for November?

November 8, 2016 is the general election. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Voters must be registered on or before October 11, 2016 to cast a ballot. If you want to vote and meet the criteria set below, you can obtain an absentee ballot from the city or township office where you are registered.

- You expect to be absent from your community the entire time the polls are open on election day;
- You are physically unable to attend the polls without assistance;
- You cannot attend the polls because of religious beliefs;



- You have been appointed a precinct inspector outside of your community;
- You are 60 years of age or older; or
- · You are in jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

You can apply for an Absent Voter Ballot by letter, post card, absentee ballot application, in person at your local clerk's office, or, if you are eligible, with a Federal Postcard Application. Ballots CANNOT be supplied by phone request; they must be requested in writing.

The deadline to apply to receive an Absent Voter Ballot by mail is 2 p.m. on the Saturday prior to the election. You may vote an absent voter ballot in person at your local clerk's office until 4 p.m. the day before the election.

Kent County Board of Commissioners' & Administrator's Office

300 Monroe Avenue NW Grand Rapids, MI 49503



accessKent.com



Kent County Mission Statement

The mission of Kent County government is to be an effective and efficient steward in delivering quality services for our diverse community. Our priority is to provide mandated services, which may be enhanced and supplemented by additional services to improve the quality of life for all our citizens within the constraints of sound fiscal policy.